

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 804

To amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require certain coalitions and associations to disclose their lobbying activities, and to require reporting on a quarterly basis.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2007

Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. STARK, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. WOOLSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require certain coalitions and associations to disclose their lobbying activities, and to require reporting on a quarterly basis.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Stealth Lobbyist Dis-  
3 closure Act of 2007”.

4 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES BY CERTAIN**  
5 **COALITIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS.**

6       (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 3 of the  
7 Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1602) is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9               “(2) CLIENT.—

10               “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘client’  
11 means any person or entity that employs or re-  
12 tains another person for financial or other com-  
13 pensation to conduct lobbying activities on be-  
14 half of that person or entity. A person or entity  
15 whose employees act as lobbyists on its own be-  
16 half is both a client and an employer of such  
17 employees.

18               “(B) TREATMENT OF COALITIONS AND AS-  
19 SOCIATIONS.—

20               “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-  
21 vided in clauses (ii) and (iii), in the case  
22 of a coalition or association that employs  
23 or retains other persons to conduct lob-  
24 bying activities, each of the individual  
25 members of the coalition or association  
26 (and not the coalition or association) is the

1 client. For purposes of section 4(a)(3), the  
2 preceding sentence shall not apply, and the  
3 coalition or association shall be treated as  
4 the client.

5 “(ii) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN TAX-  
6 EXEMPT ASSOCIATIONS.—In case of an as-  
7 sociation—

8 “(I) which is described in para-  
9 graph (3) of section 501(c) of the In-  
10 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 and ex-  
11 empt from tax under section 501(a) of  
12 such Code, or

13 “(II) which is described in any  
14 other paragraph of section 501(c) of  
15 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986  
16 and exempt from tax under section  
17 501(a) of such Code and which has  
18 substantial exempt activities other  
19 than lobbying with respect to the spe-  
20 cific issue for which it engaged the  
21 person filing the registration state-  
22 ment under section 4,

23 the association (and not its members) shall  
24 be treated as the client.

1 “(iii) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN MEM-  
2 BERS.—

3 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Information  
4 on a member of a coalition or associa-  
5 tion need not be included in any reg-  
6 istration under section 4 if the  
7 amount reasonably expected to be con-  
8 tributed by such member toward the  
9 activities of the coalition or associa-  
10 tion of influencing legislation is less  
11 than \$1,000 per any quarterly period.

12 “(II) EXCEPTION.—In any case  
13 in which information on a member of  
14 a coalition or association is not in-  
15 cluded in a registration by reason of  
16 subclause (I) and that member there-  
17 after makes aggregate contributions  
18 of more than \$1,000 in any quarterly  
19 period, the date on which the aggre-  
20 gate of such contributions first ex-  
21 ceeds \$1,000 in such period shall be  
22 treated as the date of first employ-  
23 ment or retention to make a lobbying  
24 contact for purposes of section 4, and  
25 the coalition or association shall

1 amend its registration under section 4  
2 to include the information on the  
3 member.

4 “(iv) LOOK-THRU RULES.—In the  
5 case of a coalition or association that is  
6 treated as a client under the first sentence  
7 of clause (i)—

8 “(I) such coalition or association  
9 shall be treated as employing or re-  
10 taining other persons to conduct lob-  
11 bying activities for purposes of deter-  
12 mining whether any individual mem-  
13 ber thereof is treated as a client under  
14 clause (i); and

15 “(II) information on such coal-  
16 ition or association need not be in-  
17 cluded in any registration under sec-  
18 tion 4 of the coalition or association  
19 with respect to which it is treated as  
20 a client under clause (i).”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by  
23 this section shall apply to—

24 (A) coalitions and associations listed on  
25 registration statements filed under section 4 of

1 the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C.  
 2 1603) on or after the date of the enactment of  
 3 this Act; and

4 (B) coalitions and associations for whom  
 5 any lobbying contact is made on or after the  
 6 date of the enactment of this Act.

7 (2) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of any coali-  
 8 tion or association to which the amendments made  
 9 by this Act apply by reason of paragraph (1)(B), the  
 10 person required by such section 4 to file a registra-  
 11 tion statement with respect to such coalition or asso-  
 12 ciation shall file a new registration statement within  
 13 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 3. QUARTERLY FILING OF LOBBYING DISCLOSURE RE-**  
 15 **PORTS.**

16 (a) QUARTERLY FILING REQUIRED.—Section 5 of  
 17 the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1604) is  
 18 amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) by striking “Semiannual” and insert-  
 21 ing “Quarterly”;

22 (B) by striking “the semiannual period”  
 23 and all that follows through “July of each  
 24 year” and insert “the quarterly period begin-

1           ning on the first days of January, April, July,  
2           and October of each year”; and

3           (C) by striking “such semiannual period”  
4           and insert “such quarterly period”; and  
5           (2) in subsection (b)—

6           (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
7           by striking “semiannual report” and inserting  
8           “quarterly report”;

9           (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “semi-  
10          annual filing period” and inserting “quarterly  
11          period”;

12          (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “semi-  
13          annual period” and inserting “quarterly pe-  
14          riod”; and

15          (D) in paragraph (4), by striking “semi-  
16          annual filing period” and inserting “quarterly  
17          period”.

18       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

19           (1) DEFINITION.—Section 3(10) of the Lob-  
20       bying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1602) is  
21       amended by striking “six month period” and insert-  
22       ing “three-month period”.

23           (2) REGISTRATION.—Section 4 of the Lobbying  
24       Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1603) is amend-  
25       ed—

1 (A) in subsection (a)(3)(A), by striking  
 2 “semiannual period” and inserting “quarterly  
 3 period”; and

4 (B) in subsection (b)(3)(A), by striking  
 5 “semiannual period” and inserting “quarterly  
 6 period”.

7 (3) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 6 of the Lobbying  
 8 Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1605) is amended  
 9 in paragraph (6) by striking “semiannual period”  
 10 and inserting “quarterly period”.

11 (4) ESTIMATES.—Section 15 of the Lobbying  
 12 Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1610) is amend-  
 13 ed—

14 (A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “semi-  
 15 annual period” and inserting “quarterly pe-  
 16 riod”; and

17 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “semi-  
 18 annual period” and inserting “quarterly pe-  
 19 riod”.

20 (5) DOLLAR AMOUNTS.—

21 (A) Section 4 of the Lobbying Disclosure  
 22 Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1603) is amended—

23 (i) in subsection (a)(3)(A)(i), by strik-  
 24 ing “\$5,000” and inserting “\$2,500”;



1           (ii) in subsection (a)(3)(A)(ii), by  
2 striking “\$20,000” and inserting  
3 “\$10,000”;

4           (iii) in subsection (b)(3)(A), by strik-  
5 ing “\$10,000” and inserting “\$5,000”;  
6 and

7           (iv) in subsection (b)(4), by striking  
8 “\$10,000” and inserting “\$5,000”.

9           (B) Section 5 of the Lobbying Disclosure  
10 Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1604) is amended—

11           (i) in subsection (c)(1), by striking  
12 “\$10,000” and “\$20,000” and inserting  
13 “\$5,000” and “\$10,000”, respectively; and

14           (ii) in subsection (c)(2), by striking  
15 “\$10,000” both places such term appears  
16 and inserting “\$5,000”.

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